

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /105 W

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R 020615Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3017

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJECT: PRIMIN TANAKA HELICOPTER CAMPAIGN

1. PRIMIN TANAKA HAS BECOME FIRST PARTY LEADER IN JAPAN EVER TO RELY HEAVILY ON CHARTERED HELICOPTER TO MAINTAIN EXTREMELY TIGHT CAMPAIGN SCHEDULE. HE PLANS TO MAKE MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED APPEARANCES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY DURING CURRENT THREE-WEEK LONG UPPER HOUSE CAMPAIGN.

2. HOWEVER, FREQUENT RAIN SHOWERS, LOW CEILING AND FOG WHICH COVER JAPAN DURING RAINY SEASON NOW IN PROGRESS HAVE ALREADY FORCED HIS HELICOPTER TO DIVERT FROM PRIMARY LANDING SITE TO ALTERNATE THREE TIMES. FORTNIGHT AGO HE MADE FIRST UNSCHEDULED LANDING IN SHOPPING CENTER NEAR NAGOYA, AND OVER PAST WEEKEND HAD SIMILAR EXPERIENCE ON CONSECUTIVE DAYS, IN FUKUSHIMA JUNE 30 AND CHIBA JULY 1. HE RETURNED FROM NEARBY CHIBA TO TOKYO BY CAR.

3. LANDINGS HAVE BEEN INCONVENIENT, REQUIRING ON-SPOT ARRANGEMENTS FOR AUTO TRANSPORTATION TO NEXT SCHEDULED APPEARANCE ON SHORT NOTICE, BUT HAVE NOT RAISED QUESTION OF SAFETY.

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4. MEDIA HAVE BEEN QUICK TO CONTRAST PRIMIN TANAKA'S

AIR ENVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN STYLE WITH CONVENTIONAL TRANSPORTATION
OF EARTHBOUND OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS. REACTION HAS BEEN
MIXED, WITH PRIMIN APPEARING TO BE FAR MORE MODERN THAN OTHERS,
BUT ALSO MORE SPENDTHRIFT. EXTENSIVE USE OF
CHARTERED HELICOPTER HAS BEEN SEEN AS SYMBOLIC OF
EXCESSIVE COSTS OF CURRENT CAMPAIGN.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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Type: TE
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